

ALEXANDRIA:

FRIDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 22, 1861.

As this day, the 22d inst., the Anni-VERSARY OF THE BIRTH-DAY OF GEORGE WASH-INGTON, will be appropriately celebrated in this place, and will be regarded as a general holiday, in order to allow all employed in this Office to participate with their fellowcitizens in the ceremonies and proceedings of the occasion, and in compliance with the old Alexandria custom of sixty years duration, of showing respect and honor to the Day, this Office will be closed, and no paper issued therefrom to-morrow. Should news of interest be received, it will be published to-morrow, in an extra.

Congress .- The Senate spent the greater portion of yesterday in Executive session. The House of Representatives discussed several matters of interest, but came to a conclusion upon none.

STATE CONVENTION-In the Convention yesterday, Mr. Wood, of Barbour, offered a series of resolutions declaring the allegiance of the citizens of Virginia was due first to the State, and that any attempt at coercion would be a declaration of war, which were received with favor and referred to the Committee on Federal Relations. The Convention adjourned until Monday.

VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE. - In the Senate, on Wednesday, Mr. Thomas presented a petition from the Pilots on the Potomac for an increase of rates. Resolutions of the Michigan Legislature, in favor of coercion, land Conference Convention. were read, and directed to be sent back .-The bill for the relief of the Banks was further debated. Mr. Douglas offered a joint resolution in response to all the resolutions that have been thrust on the notice of the Legislature in favor of coercion, and pledging men and money for that purpose, which lavs over under the rule. In the House of Delegates the bill to incorporate a company to construct a railroad between Washington and Alexandria was passed. The report of Judge Robertson, Commission to the seceding States was read, and ordered to be printed. The bill in aid of the Covington and Objo Railroad was amended, and ordered to its engrossment.

The recurrence of the anniversary of the BIRTH-DAY of George Washington, at a time like this, excites mingled feelings of patriotic pride for the past, and mournful anticipations of the future. It happens when it cannot be celebrated, as it has been for more than half a century, by a united people, and by the citizens of the United States, forming the greatest Republic in the world. We have been accustomed to regard and call the illustrious Chief the "Father of his Country." Proud as we were of him as a Virginian, we felt that, as he labored for all, so all were entitled to share the honor reflected from his illustrious character and services, and that the perpetual Monument of his fame would be the Government which he assisted to establish, the Constitution which he aided in forming, and the Union which he loved so well, and which, dying, "he bequeathed as a rich legacy" to posterity. Alas! that his fondest wishes and hopes should not be realized by those who have come after him-and that they should have been thwarted and destroyed by men who have neither his wisdom, his prudence, his virtue, nor his patriotism!

But, even as it is, we are glad to see that the Day itself is still to be "freshly remembered." and that the love for, and veneration of, his name and principles, are not dead in the hearts of the people, nor bounded by geographical lines, or confined to sectional limits. Let it, in any event, ever be thus! It may be, that in the gloom which overshadows the land, the celebration of this day, the contemplation of his character, the study of the lessons he taught, and the review of his life, and the great end and aim of his work, may shed a ray of light, and turn the minds of his countrymen to better purposes than have been shown in these latter times. God grant that it may be so! Had we obeyed his injunctions-had we followed his advice-had we hearkened to his warnings-had we kept burning upon the altar of Liberty and Union the holy fire which he kindled, and placed there, and guarded, we would not be as we now are!

Mr. Lincoln was, on Wednesday, formally received by the authorities of New York city in the Governor's room at the City Hall. Mayor Wood, in his address, referred to the condition of the country and the responsibility resting upon the President elect, to which Mr. Lincoln responded that "in his devotion to the Union he was behind no man:" that in "wisdom he might be deficient, but he had a heart devoted to the

In the British Parliament, our troubles, explanation has been demanded of the Legreferred to in the Queen's speech, formed ation here the subject of remark in the debate on the deep regret at the position of our affairs, and were unanimous in urging that Great Britain should exert herself in seeking other sources no new Government until the same has been was an old man, and baving purchased his than this country from whence to derive her recognized by the Government out of which own freedom, and that of his wife, a few necessary supply of cotton.

the Richmond Enquirer for reporting and publishing, in full, the proceedings of the lomats is that this policy will be rigidly ad- lature will grant extraordinary privileges to itol and the oath administered. The staging 10 Convention.

It is thought that a final vote upon the propositions before it, will be taken in the PEACE CONFERENCE, at Washington, to-day. We hope this expectation may be realizedand that the result may be favorable, and such as will be acceptable to Virginia, North Carolina, Kentucky, Tennessee, and Missouri. If a decision is not reached very soon, a motion for a final adjournment will be made, and carried.

When George the Fourth, as Prince Regent, was candidly admonished by a faithful friend that his conduct was bringing the monarchy and throne into odium, he replied characteristically, "It will last my time." If Mr. Lincoln does not make haste to do or say something better than he has yet said or done, he may find that even what is yet left will not "last his time."

It is said that Mr. Bouligny, of Louisiana, she still retains his seat in the House of Representatives, disregarding Secession, has received letters from New Orleans approving his course-doubting whether there is a majority of the State in favor of Secessionand declaring that "Disunion" there is not as strong as it has been represented to be.

Letters received from Paris contain authoritative denials, in the most emphatic manner, that the Emperor Napoleon has signified his intention to recognize the independence of the Southern Confederacy.

Hon. Cornelius W. Lawrence, of New York, formerly a member of Congress, Mayor of New York, Collector of the port of New York, &c., &c., died on Long Island on the

The returns received at St. Louis from the interior of Missouri, show that the State has gone for the Union by an overwhelming maiority. Not ten Secessionists are returned

A fire, in Park Place, New York, on Wednesday, destroyed property in the stores of Watson & Co., and Chapman, Logan & Noyes, to the amount of \$200,000.

Marshal Bosquet, one of the most popular generals in the French army, and who was distinguished in the Crimean war, died re-Dr. Bayne, of Prince George's County,

Md., was not a candidate for the late Mary-

Mr. Lincoln is expected in Washington tomorrow afternoon.

Speech to the Republican Clubs .- New YORK, Feb. 20 .- The Republican clubs of the city waited on Mr. Lincoln last evening, in the hall of the Astor House.

Gen. Delafield Smith addressed Mr. Lin coin in a speech of welcome, alluding to the fact that the hall had only been occupied on three occasions for the reception of public men-once for Webster, once for Clay, and now for Abraham Lincoln.

Mr. Lincoln responded as follows: MR. CHAIRMAN-I did not understand, when brought into this room, that I was to

make a speech. It was not intimated to me that I was about to enter the room where Webster and Clay had made speeches, and where, in my position, I might be expected to do something like those men, or something unworthy of myself or my audience. I have been occupying a position, since

the Presidential election, of silence, of avoiding public speaking and public writing. I have thought, upon full consideration, that t was the proper course for me to pursue .--

I have not kept silence from any petty wantonness, or from any indifference to the anxiety which pervades the minds of men n regard to the threatening aspect of the political affairs of the country. I have kent silent for the reason that I surposed it was peculiarly proper I should do so, until the ime arrived when, according to the custom of the country, I should speak officially: I allude to the custom of the President elect: at the time of entering upon his office, to submit his views upon political questions. - | ly way." Cries of "That's right."]

I did suppose that while the political drama at present being enacted in this country is so rapidily shifting its scenes and changng every hour, forbidding any anticipation, with any degree of certainty, of what we shall see to-morrow, that it was peculiarly fitting that I should see all, up to the last minute, before I should take a position which I might through some change of scene, be compelled to abandon.

I repeat what I have before stated, that when the time does come for me to act, I shall take the ground that I believe to be right [applause], that I think is right for he North, the South, the East, and for the West-for the whole country. | Cries of "Good," cheers and applause] And in doing so, I hope to feel no necessity pressing upon me to say anything in conflict with the nstitution-in conflict with the Union of these States-in conflict with the perpetuation of the liberties of this people, or I may add, in contra-distinction with anything I have given you reason to expect from me .-Appiause.

Now, my friends, have I said enough Cries of No! No! There appears to be a lifference of opinion between you and me, and I shall insist upon deciding the question | not serve South Carolina.' myself. Loud appliance and laughter, durwhich Mr. Lincoln left the platform.]

He then proceeded to the upper end of he hall, where he shook hands with a large number of persons and then retired.

THE FOREIGN LEGATIONS. - There seems to be quite a dissension in several of the Foreign Legations growing out of the Secession question. For instance, it appears that very contradictory reports have reached the French court touching the secession of the Cotton States. M. Mercier, the new French Minster, since his arrival in Washington last fall has been in the constant keeping of Senators Benjamin, Slidell. Mason et omne genus. The consequence is M. Mercier is a thorough Secessionist, and has reported to his Government views altogether favorable to the seceled States and against any hope of a remedy or reconstruction. Very different reports have in the meantime reached Napoleon through his Consuls and other sources, and I learn upon reliable authority that some

Baron Stoeck!, the representative of Russia also draws all his views of our national motion for the usual address in answer to affairs from Southern statesmen. These he the speech. All the speakers expressed their faithfully communicates to his imperial master at St. Petersburg.

The well established rule of European policy is to recognize the independence of one or more of his children in slavery. He the new one has been carved. There has been but one exception to this rule in Eu- laid by this sum. The State Convention has authorized its rope for a century past, and that was the President to contract with the proprietors of recognition of the independence of Belgium by the Congress of Vienna in 1831. The better impression here among European diphered to .- Balt. Amer.

NEWS OF THE DAY.

"To show the very age and body of the TIMES." In addition to a scarcity of specie the Island of Cuba is suffering also from a scarcity of crops. The Cuba (Havana) Messenger of the 10th thus describes the effect of the drought prevailing there: "We mentioned in our last number that in consequence of the long continued drought throughout the Island it was believed that the new sugar crop would be from 15 to 20 per cent. less than it was estimated to be about ten weeks ago. We now find that this is not the only evil arising from the excessive want of rain, and that the winter crops of corn, potatoes, rice and other vegetables, which are the chief articles of support for our laboring classes, are nearly all destroyed and will yield but a very small proportion of the usual crops."

In St. Louis, Friday night last, a number of citizens had assembled for the purpose of raising a Union pole and flag. A small cannon was borrowed with which to fire the usual salute of thirty-four guns. On the firing of the twenty-eighth shot the cannon burst. The fragments flew among the bystanders, inflicting lamentable injuries upon a lad eleven years old, named Gustave Brockman, who had come to the spot to see the sport .-He was struck by several of the pieces; one of them actually tore out his eyes. His arm was broken in three places, and his stomach was pierced. He expired in a few minutes. Henry Hughes and John Marse were also seriously injured.

Mr. Rarey, tamer of wild horses, and Rev. Dr. Nott, the venerable President of Union College, who has enjoyed a personal experience of fifty five years in the taming of refractory boys, had an interview in Philadelphia on Saturday. Dr. Nott is now upwards of ninety years of age, and has held the to the Charleston Mercury, dated at Wash-Presidency of Union College for an uninterrupted term of nearly fifty-five years. The interview was of about a half hour's duration, during which time the respective parties satisfactorily ascertained that the same principles of forbearance, and humanity, coupled with direct appeals to the intelliin the cases of both boys and horses.

The Cuban Messenger, of the 10th instant, gives a despondent account of the increasing scarcity of gold and silver in that the architect of his own fortune. Island. So scarce is specie there, it states, that the wealthiest merchants cannot obtain the necessary amount for their every day transactions. In Havana, Cardenas and Matanzas commerce is being greatly incon ed a critical point. The merchants of Cien- ing from sickness. fuegos have petitioned the Captain General to order that the Custom House at that place shall receive payments one-half in Spanish bank coupons, or the whole amount in bank notes, according to circumstances.

Hon. Thomas J. Judge, the commissioner of Alabama, who recently visited Washington, to negotiate with the President in reference to the forts, arsenals and custom-houses in the State, and the debt of the United States, has returned home, his mission having been unsuccessful. It appears his arrival at Washington was formally announced to the President by Senator C. C. Clay. Mr Buchanan stated that he could only receive Mr. Judge as "a distinguished citizen of Alabama." This fact was communicated by Mr. Clay to Mr. Judge, who thereupon refused to have an interview with the President except in an official character.

A correspondent relates to the St. Louis Republican a shooting exploit of a Mrs. Hord, wife of Willis Hord, esq., residing near that city, which has gained her much notoriety in the neighborhood. Recently four wild turkies alighted in her yard, where a flock of tame turkies where feeding. and at once commenced a war of extermination upon the domestic fowls, which the fair marksman (?) terminated by producing a six-shooter and killing the invaders with four successive shots at ten paces distance.

The Springfield (Mass.) Republican, in its number of the 16th instant, expresses its regret that the committee appointed to consider and report on the propriety of repealing the Massachusetts Personal Liberty bill has determined merely to recommend some modifications in the existing statute .-It says: "This tinkering and artful dodging are not creditable. Either let the whole taining the Italian Gallery and the family thing be dropped or the useless and obnoxious laws repealed in a straightforward man- entirely destroyed, with the paintings.

The Senate has passed the Tariff bill .--The bill goes back to the House with numerous amendments. Among those adopted by the Senate was one reducing the duty on sugar and placing a duty on tea and coffee and another placing a duty of five per cent. ad valorem on wool under eighteen cents per pound. The bill as passed by the Senate retains the warehousing system of the pres-

The delegates of the Detroit Trade and Cotton Spinners' Convention of Georgia met in Atlanta, on the 13th inst., and adopted a resolution recommending a general attendance of all interested in the commercial, financial, and manufacturing future of the South, at an adjourned meeting of the convention, to be held at Atlanta, on the 19th

The Charleston Courier says "that numerous tenders of service in the surgical staff of the peace. the State has been received from New York. Rhode Island, Pennsylvania, Indiana, Ar- that the Virginia Peace Congress was first kansas, Maryland, Virginia, Alabama, Geor- suggested in that city by a distinguished gia, Florida and North Carolina. Some of member of the Virginia judiciary; a gentlethe medical gentlemen have volunteered for man who has not been a politician for thirty the position of hospital stewards, rather than | years.

At Charleston, S. C., last week the weather was unusually mild. Peach trees were or ten cases of small pox in the city. in full bloom, green peas had been in blos som for a week, and strawberries were beginning to form. The Mercury anticipates that about the middle of next month strawberries and green peas will be among the table luxuries supplied to Major Anderson to lip, and is evidently intended as a re-

Mrs. Sarah Vandever has recovered \$2,-500 damages from the Pennsylvania Railroad Company for causing, as was alleged. the death of her husband. It appears he was a passenger on the train, in 1857, and being somewhat intoxicated, refused to show his ticket. Arriving at a station, the train stopped, and in putting him out, he fell, from the effects of which he died.

James D. McFaddin, of S. C., has sent a donation of \$500 to Gov. Pickens, "to be spent in the service of the State." The Juartermaster-General has invited proposals or making 1,000 uniforms, and estimates for 5,000 pairs of shoes, and as many country-made wooling socks for the South Caro-

died a few months since in Boston, leaving mit persons into the capitol on the fourth of words 'provided that, to the extent of said by his will about \$1,100 for the purchase of years since, had by industry and economy away a great many articles of value, the com-

The Minister in London of the republic of Nicaragua has issued a notice stating that the President of the republic and the Legis- Mr. Lincoln will simply be taken to the Capcotton planters.

Humphrey Davis has been convicted at St. Louis of the murder of Robert Clifford, and sentenced to fifteen years confinement in the Missouri State prison. Davis is the son of Hon. James Davis, now of Leaven-

worth, Kansas, but formerly of Fountain

county, Indiana, and a candidate for Congress a few years ago. It has been ascertained that a larger number of war vessels are afloat now than for the last 20 years. Other vessels may be fitted out in three or four weeks. There is, however, a deficiency of lieutenants, midshipmen, masters, and medical officers as well as seamen, the law limiting the last named to 8,500 men.

I, there will be five living ex-Presidents of the United States : Van Buren, Tyler, Fillmore, Pierce and Buchanan. Every one of these retired statesmen favors the plan of compromise known as the Crittenden plan, or something akin to it.

Advices from Havana state that the Spanish war steamer Velasco will soon sail for the United States, with Senor Pacheco and other political exiles from Mexico. Captain General had given a grand military review to General Miramon.

The decision of the United States Supreme Court in the case of Wiggin against Taylor, confirms the title of Mr. Robert T. Walker to an important interest in the quicksilver mines, called the "New Almaden Mines," in California. After to-day the President will have the

discretion to kill any bill which passes Congress by the pocket veto, as the ten days al lowed him by the constitution for consideration will then expire. The following is part of a special telegram

ington: "The only hope now is in the smashing up of the Peace Congress and getting Virginia out.'

From our latest dates of the Prensa de Habana we learn that active preparations are making throughout the island of Cuba gence, were productive of the same results to provide against any invasion which may be threatened.

> for a place in Mr. Lincoln's Cabinet. He is John Schaaf, of the District of Columbia,

dirst Lieut. Second Cavalry U. S. A., has jugated by force. It was currently rumored in Charleston

venienced by the scarcity, which had reach- on Sunday that Major Anderson was suffer-Gen. Wool, who has been seriously ill at

Washington of pneumonia, is now better.

FOREIGN MISCELLANY.

The English journals record the death, on the 29th ult., of Mrs. Catherine Grace Gore, one of the most prolific and popular novelsts of the day. She was the widow of Charles Arthur Core, a military man, and was 61 years old. For more than a year past Mrs. Gore had been almost entirely blind. Mrs. Gore has written from sixty to seventy works, filling nearly two hundred volumes. One of her daughters, who was with her at her death, is married to an English baronet, and her son was one of the suite of the Prince of Wales during his late visit to this country.

The London Times, in reviewing the Emperor's speech, finds nothing whatever that s reassuring. It says the speech gives no reason for the immense increase of the army and navy: no account of the foreign relations of the country, and no assurance of her good understanding with any other country. seek in vain for the slightest hint of the policy which France is about to pursue. Such i speech cannot, ought not, to reassure any

Two thousand merchant vessels, which to westerly winds, were liberated by a strong | preceeding the requisition. Levanter on the 11th of January. The wind had not been from the East at Gibral-

On the 5th inst., Blenheim Palace, Oxford, England, was found to be in flames .-The Duchess of Marlborough, family and suite were there at the time. The wing conarchives was destroyed. The gallery was

It is said that the Prussian general who went to Paris to announce the death of the King of Prussia was so offended by some remarks of the Emperor that he declined to go to the court ball

There was a great movement of troops throughout France in consequence of the formation of depots for the army of reserve. Reinforcements had sailed for Rome. ---

VIRGINIA NEWS.

On Sunday night last, a little mill occurred in front of James street Chapel, Norfolk. The belligerents were a married lady and a single gentleman. The cause of the disturbance was not known, but there was an impression made with a stick on the head of the single gentleman which caused him considerable pain, and he was totally oblivious as to the cause of the assault. The lady was arrested for the assault, and carried before the Mayor, who bound her over to keep

The Staunton (Virginia) Spectator states

The physicians in Lynchburg are engaged busily in vaccinating. There are some eight The price of servants, in Richmond, has

advanced considerably.

Who are the Submissionists?-The term 'Submissionists" is being banded from lip proach to persons entertaining certain opinions. Who, then, are the Submissionists? Let us see. The Republicans say to the South: "You have no rights in the Territories-they belong to the North." The Gulf States answer: "We submit-take the Territories-we withdraw our claim." non-secoding States, on the other hand, say: "We have rights in the Territories, and demand their recognition and better security or we will dissolve partnership and insist upon our share of the property in dispute. We submit to no such arrogant claim as that you set up." Which are the submissionists? which is it that flies before the enemy strikes | son, and Christian advocated, and Messrs. and leaves its baggage behind ?-Richmond | Kaufman and Yerby opposed striking out.

INAUGURATION .- On Wednesday the Senate ommittee on the inauguration, of which A colored man, named Richard Bruce, Mr. Foot is chairman agreed at first to ad- tence "five hundred thousand dollars," the March, but upon the suggestion of some of amount, it shall be in lieu of the approprithe officers of the Capitol that there would | tion made for the Covington and Ohio Railbe an immense crowd of persons of all char- road in 1860," The amendment was adopacters, and that they would steal and carry ted. mittee thereupon concluded not to admit any | bill was ordered to be engressed. into the Capitol on that day. There will be no military display on that occasion, with 40 BBLS. Yellow Renned, C. 16110W, and D. no military display on that occasion, with the exception of the volunteer companies .- by will be erected on Saturday -- Confederation. sale by

VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE.

In the Senate, on Wednesday, the bill for the relief of the securities of James R. Courtney of Westmoreland, was received from the House with amendments, and the amendments were concurred in. A bill was reported to prevent the abuses

of the telegraph. The bill for the relief of Philip D. Lipscomb, Clerk of Prince William county, was

Mr. H. W. Thomas presented a memorial of the pilots upon the Potomac river, asking an increase in the rates of pilotage. On motion of Mr. Hubbard, it was

Resolved, To inquire into the expediency of repealing so much of section 43 of chapter On the change of administration, March | 26 of the Code of Virginia as exempts officers and privates of volunteer companies from services on juries. A communication was received from the Executive, transmitting a copy of joint reso-

lutions from the State of Michigan in favor

of coercion, and proffering men for that pur-The message of Gov. Letcher, accompanying the resolutions; was laid on the table

and ordered to be printed. On motion of Mr. August, the resolutions were returned to the Governor, with instructions that they be sent back to the State of Michigan without comment.

A communication from the Executive was also read, transmitting a joint resolution adopted by the State of Texas against coer-

Ordered to be laid on the table and printed. Also, a communication from Gov. Letcher, transmitting a communication received on the evening of the 18th, from Hon. John Robertson, Commissioner to visit the seceding States, accompanied by sundry documents, numbered from one to nine, inclusive .-These documents embrace the correspondence between the Commissioner and the Governors of South Carolina, Georgia, and Alabama. Ordered to be printed.

Mr. Dauglass then proposed the following oint resolutions, (which, under the rules, lay over one day,) as a response to all the reolutions which have been sent to Virginia in favor of coercion and pledging men and money for that purpose.

Resolved, That the General Assembly of Virginia does not look upon their fellow-cit-Gov. Ramsey, of Minnesota, is spoken of lizens of the seceding States, whilst engaged in defending their constitutional rights against the threatened invasion of a dominant political party in the free States, as traitors or rebels, to be slaughtered and sub-

Resolved, That Virginia, having heretofore declared her purpose to resist the forcible conquest of the seceding States, hereby reiterates that declaration, and will, if the course of Michigan and other non-slaveholding States, as indicated in various resolutions heretofore sent to this body, be adhered to and carried into effect, render her entire military strength to resist all such attempts at coercion, and hereby pledges herself to meet force by force in the effort to maintain the true principles of the Constitution, and uphold the common rights of the slavehold-

Resolved, That a copy of the foregoing resolutions be sent by the Governor of this State to the Legislature of Michigan.

Ordered to be printed. The order of the day being called for, the bill for the relief of the Banks of the Commonwealth was taken up.

Mr. Coghill moved to reconsider the vote by which the 5th section of the bill had seen adopted, in order to offer a substitute. The proposition gave rise to a debate o some length, in which Messrs. Coghill, August, Brannon, and Thomas of Fairfax, par-

The motion to reconsider was carried, and Mr. Coghill moved to strike out all after the word "and," in the fifth line of the fifth section, which was carried.

Mr. Coghill then proposed to amend by in serting after the word "and" the following: 'According to an uniform per centage upon the aggregate amount of capital, circulation had been accumulating in the neighborhood and deposits of all the Banks of the comof Gibraltar for nearly two months, owing | monwealth on the first day of October next,

> Mr. Thomas, of Henry, moved to strike out the 4th section of the bill, which repeals he' 1st, 2od, 3rd, and 4th sections of the act of 1858.

> Pending the discussion of this proposition, a comunication was received from the Governor, urging immediate action on the Armory bill.

The communication was read, laid on the table, and ordered to be printed. The bill refered to in the Governor's communication was made the order of the day

for te-morrow at 11 o'clock.

In the House of Delegates, the following Senate bills were passed: Incorporating the Baltimore and Fredericksburg Steamboat Company; authorizing the issue of prefered stock by the Alexandria, Mount Vernon and Accotinck Turnpike Company.

A bill was reported providing for the vol untary enslavement of free negroes without compensation to the Comonwealth.

A Senate bill entitled an act to amend and re-enact the 1st and 3rd sections of an act entitled an act to incorporate a company to construct on the plan of James S. French, a railroad between Alexandria and Washington, passed Feb. 27th, 1854, was taken up, on motion of Mr. Myers, amended, and as amended, read a third time and passed. A communication was received through

he Governor and laid before the House, from Judge John Robertson, late special Commissioner to South Carolina, embodying the correspondence between himself and the Governments of South Carolina, Georgia and Alabama, which was laid on the table and ordered to be printed.

Mr. Ward presented the petition of citizens of Frederick county, praying for the passage of a general law, authorizing the erection of work-houses, which was ordered to be referred to the Committee on Courts of

On motion of Mr. Martin, of Henry, 'a bill for the partial suspension of the sale of State bonds, and to provide for complying with contracts already made upon the Covington and Ohio Railroad," was taken up and considered. The pending question thereon was the roposed amendment offered by Mr. McKen-

"but no new or additional subscription shall be made to any joint stock company. Mr. Martin moved to amend in lieu thereof by striking out all the preceding, after the enactment clause, embracing the amendment of Mr. McKenzie.

The amendment of Mr. McKenzie being

ie, which was to strike out the sentence

withdrawn, the questions recurred on the proposition of Mr. Henry to strike out. A long discussion ensued, in which Messrs Martin of II., Caperton, Chapman, Ander-The question to thus amend was decided

in the affirmative -- ayes 74, noes 38. Mr. Martin then moved to further amend by inserting in the 16th line, after the sen-

After sundry amendment were offered, the

[feb 19] HHDS. New Crop New Orleans Sugar, part SALT.-500 sacks G. A. Salt strictly prime, received this day, and for 200 sacks Ashtod's SALT, for sale by HHDS. New Crop New Orleans Sugar, part [feb 19] J. E. DOUGLASS. | feb 15

OUR RICHMOND LETTER.

The State Convention, Legislature, &c. RICHMOND, Feb. 20.—In the Convention to day, Mr. Clemens made a- personal explanation, denving the charge which had been made against him that he had, under his official frank, sent public documents to free negroes. He stigmatized it as a falsehood of the deepest dye. The circulation of his speech, together with those of Mr. Millson and Mr. Nelson, he had nothing to do with. He had sent copies under his own frank, in pamphlet form, to gentlemen whom he knew, and all others were forgeries.

Mr. Montague said that in his county such documents had been received by free negroes, with the frank of Mr. Clemens upon them. He produced two of the envelopes. Mr. Clemens examined them, and pronounced them palpable forgeries.

A resolution for the appointment of a select committee to inquire and report as to present. whether the General Government had, by any recent action within the limits of the

people, was laid on the table. Convention as to the number of enrolled militia and arms in the State.

calling upon the Virginia Commissioners in | ness of soil and ungeniality of climate in the Washington to state whether, in their opinion, any result acceptable to this State may nent establishment of a system of most opbe expected from the deliberations of the Peace Conference, was tabled by a vote of

A large number of resolutions bearing on Federal Relations were offered and referred to the committee on that subject.

The following were offered by Mr. Brent,

the member from Alexandria. Resolved by the people of Virginia in Convention assembled, That we are warmly attached to the Union of these States; that we do not recognize in the diversity of our institutions any cause of conflict between different States: but on the contrary we believe the great varieties of soil, of production, and of interests ground for a more lasting and per-

Resolved, That in times like these, it becarty or sectional considerations, to make an earnest effort to save the Union, in that spirframed. And therefore in the spirit of compromise we are willing to adopt the amendments to the Constitution by Senator Crittenden, or any other plan of conciliation equivalent thereto, which has been, or may e offered by which harmony may be restored between the people of the different States, and the Union perpetuated.

Resolved, That in the opinion of this Convention, the employment of the Army and Navy of the United States by the Federal Government to coerce submission of the seceding States will inevitably plunge the country into civil war, and entirely extinguish all hope of a settlement of the issues now pending: we, therefore, earnestly invite the Federal Government, as well as the Seceding States, to withhold and stay the arm | ern heart upon this common object, she had, of military power, and on no pretext what upon the result of the recent Presidential ever to bring on the horrors of civil war until the people themselves can take such action as our troubles demand. Mr. Nelson, of Clark, submitted the fol-

Resolved, by the Convention of Virginia. That the differences between the slaveholding and non-slaveholding States, can only be with a Union in which she could never be settled by the adoption of amendments to regarded upon an equality with the other the Constitution, and that the interests of States. She had been accused of rashness both sections of the country imperiously de- and precipitancy, but he would ask, is it mand that the slavery agitation should be re- rash for the traveller to step aside when he

equal, and gives them all equal rights in the common Territory, yet in view of the fact that ours is a Government founded upon comproperty during the continuance of the Ter- ness, for God and liberty. ritorial Government-by a constitutional provision, irrepealable, except by the consent

of all the slaveholding States. 3. That a like provision should be made to

delivered to their owners. 4. That if no adjustment of the differ-

mon property. Mr. Holcome, of Albemarle, offered the

following resolution: Resolved. That in the opinion of this er of his eloquence. Convention, no adjustment of the unhappy sectional controversy which now divides the nent security to the slave-holding States, unty, in any form, to the prejudice of their in-

other matters about preferred stock, they also passed Senate bill amending the charter of the Washington and Alexandria Railroad Company, restoring that section of the bill which was struck out, which forbid the control of the road going entirely out of the hands of citizens of Virginia, and forbidding the connection through Alexandria without the consent of the City Council of Alexandria, and gave the Legislature authority to alter, repeal, or modify the charter at its pleasure: they also passed a bill incorporain a Company to construct and run a line of steamers from Baltimore to the Rappahannock River and Fredericksburg. The bill authorizing an issue of \$500,000 Treasury Notes in lieu of that amount of State Stock, for the relief of the Chesapeake and Onio contractors was amended in various particulars and ordered to be engrossed.

In the Senate, the Bank bill was under consideration-the amendment of Mr. Coghill, requiring the Banks to furnish their proportions of specie for the payment of denands upon the State, according to their capital, circulation and deposits, being up when the Senate adjourned.

Ly ing from steamer C. C. Alger, a lot of prime | NESS, and cause to spring up in place of the bald Rio and Old Government Java COFFEES, for spots a fine growth of new hair Applied accord-GRAY, MILLER & CO., cor. of King and Water-sts.

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Speken of Mr. Preston, the Commissions er of South Carolina, to the Virginia Con-

Mr. Preston arose near the President's stand and proceeded to address the Convention. Mr. Preston is a man of large frame, handsome, commanding, and venerable in general appearance. He is apparently about sixty years of age. His face is not exactly full, but possesses a substantial glow of health from the temples to the chin. The features are strong and intellectual, with an expression of benevulence. The voice is rich and resonant, and his manner of speaking is deliberate and eloquent. His hair is thin and straight, of a sandy grey, and his eyes, of a glistening hazel, rather small, but full of expression, and that expression is mild, almost to fascination.

He commenced by referring to the formation of the Confederacy of the Stares, and explained the object and obligations of the States composing the Union, in entering into the compact. He then grouped together the facts and principles involved in the action of the State which he had the honor to re-

He said that as early as 1820 the evident policy of the North was to cut off the terri-State, indicated an inclination to coerce the | torial expansion of the slave power. It has been the rule of government to derive a large The Governor was requested to inform the portion of its revenue from imports necessarily the result of the productions of the slave power. This had proceeded from a A resolution offered by Mr. Montague, variety of causes, among which were barren-Northern States, giving rise to the permapressive discrimination against the South .-They (the people of the Northern States) thus built up their wealth and power at the expense of the sweating giant of the South, until they had begun to believe that the giant was intended for no other purpose than their own aggrandizement.

The speaker then entered upon a review

of the popular acts and public legislation of the North in regard to the abolition of slavery, recounting the actions of State governments against the enforcement of the laws in regard to the fugitive slave law, and the dangers which attended the attempts of Southern men to recover their own property. The causes of this hostile spirit he reviewed. showing that it was the design of the Northern power to put an end to the controversy comes the duty of every patriot to rise above | which they themselves had excited by the extermination of slavery. The result of the events of the 6th of November, 1860, was a it of generous compromise in which it was decree of annihilation, and nothing more por less could be made of it. The State of South Carolina had three hundred thousand whites and four hundred thousand negroes. and upon the latter the former depended for their wealth and comfort; and for twenty millions of people to speak of exterminating them, was devoid of all right, honor and principle. The consequences of the fanatical spirit of the people of the North was about to be consummated, and it has pleased Heaven to curse them with a triumph which had plunged the country into civil war, and was now driving it on to the inevitable destruction of the ungenerous and unjust government which they had contributed to form. He referred to the position of South Carelina. Failing in her effort to unite the South-

sed an ordinance of secession. It was not that she disdained the co-operation of her sister States that she refrained from consulting on this occasion with them, but that she was satisfied within herself that the time had come when she could no longer be connected moved now and forever from the halls of hears the crash of the falling avalanche: is it rash to seek for shelter when you see the coming temptest and the flash of death that tion of the United States makes all the States | gleams amidst the storm-cloud; is it rash to raise your hand to protect your heart?

election, quietly and without ostentation pas

The speaker entered upon a most eloquent effort, in elucidation of the impulses which promise, we are willing to divide said terri- had urged South Carolina to leave the Union. tory by a line on the parallel of 36 deg. 30 | In doing this she had not become oblivious min., and that we will insist that in all the to the hallowed past, and still treasured up territory South of said line of latitude, slave- in her heart the bright record of those events ry of the African race shall be recognize as that had won this country from the wilder-

In reviewing the march of secession, the speaker gave vent to repeated bursts of cloquence, closing by anticipating the united action of Virginia in stepping proudly forth prohibit Congress from interferring with the and taking her stand in the front ranks of subject of slavery in any of the States, with- the Southern States. He was frequently apout the consent of every State-and also to plauded, so much so indeed, that the Presimake it the interest of the people of the State | dent finding it impossible to preserve order, to which fugitive slaves escape, to have them | tacitly permitted the applause to thunder forth at intervals without restraint. The address of the speaker was certainly worthy of ences between the States can be effected, it the most unlimited applause. No synopsis is the duty of American people to provide | could sufficiently groupe together its beauties, the way for a dignified, peaceful and fair to enable the reader to satisfy himself with reseperation, upon equitable terms and condi- gard to its grandeur. There was an earnestness tions, and for a proper division of the com- and suavity in the manner, a modesty, a seemingly appealing look, but a firm, dignified, and most polite tone, that impressed the listener, and added a two fold force to the now-

The speaker then demonstrated the impossibility of the success of the idea of free country will give lasting peace or perma- labor in the South and the magnificence and unity of a government of the Southern States. less it embraces an amendment of the Con- He could not hesitate to say that no power stitution which will place in their hands on earth could again unite the South with such measure of political power as will ena- the North. The question was now with ble them to prevent any department of the Virginia, whether she would be content, Federal Government from using its authori- like the modern Egyptian, to skulk beneath the shadow of an ancient greatness, and to stoop before the feet of a hard task The House of Delegates to-day passed the | master for protection, or step forth and hush Senate bill to authorize the Alexandria, this storm of war by a stroke of glory Mount Vernon and Accotink Turnpike Com- for herself and of advantages to the entire pany to issue preferred stock and to legalize | South. He concluded by presenting the earnest and respectful invitation of South Carolina to Virginia to join in the defence of those rights which he had portrayed. He took his soat amidst the most rapturous applause, his speech having lasted for two hours .- Petersburg Express.

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